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C.I.A.'s Casey Departs From In Keeping Control of His

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22 (AP) — William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, one of a handful of men with broad access to secret Government data on international economic developments, has reversed the practice of two predecessors by keeping control of his stock holdings.

Mr. Casey and his wife own stock worth at least \$1.8 million, and perhaps more than \$3.4 million, in 27 corporations with major foreign operations. Many of the concerns have oil, natural gas and strategic minerals operations and are involved in nations of interest to American intelligence.

Mr. Casey's immediate predecessors at the C.I.A., Vice President Bush and Adm. Stansfield Turner, set up blind trusts, saying that they wished to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interests.

Unlike Mr. Casey, others with access to strategic economic secret, — including President Reagan, Mr. Bush, Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. and Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan, put their holdings in blind trusts. Defense Secretary Caspar T. Weinberger sold his stock in companies doing business with the Pentagon, but did not create a blind trust.

No Violation of Rules

Fred F. Fielding, the White House counsel, said that Mr. Casey had not violated Reagan Administration guidelines on stock holdings.

The director, whose business dealings are under Senate Intelligence Committee investigation, has ultimate control over his stocks, although an investment adviser handles their day-to-day management, according to the intelligence agency's general counsel, Stanley Sporkin.

Speaking for Mr. Casey, Mr. Sporkin said that the adviser had bought and sold stock on Mr. Casey's behalf since the former Wall Street attorney took over the agency directorship in January. Mr. Sporkin said that Mr. Casey was not aware of what had been purchased, but he said he could not say that Mr. Casey was unaware of what had been sold.

He declined to identify any stocks bought or sold for Mr. Casey. He noted that a law requires senior officials, each May 15, to disclose the value, within broad ranges, of each stock transaction in the previous year.

Many Casey investments are with companies whose trading price could rise and fall with international developments. For instance, Mr. Casey owns



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more than \$250,000 in Superior Oil Company stock. The company deals with Abu Dhabi on how much oil it can pump in the Persian Gulf. Superior has also been negotiating with Thailand on natural gas sales and has an interest in South African platinum.

A 1965 Presidential order and existing regulations prohibit Federal employees from using information not in the public domain and obtained through their Government work "for the purpose of furthering a private interest." A Government-wide regulation on ethical conduct says "an employee shall avoid any action, whether or not specifically prohibited . . . which might result in or create the appearance of using public office for private gain."

Such rules led Mr. Bush to sell nine stocks and create a blind trust for his investments in 1976, after becoming C.I.A. director.

Admiral Turner, who had investments worth less than \$350,000, said, "I knew I wasn't going to misuse any information, but the safest move for me to be sure that I didn't have an appearance of conflict was to put those holdings in a blind trust."

Even Quaker Oats Questionable

He said that he could have made a trust unnecessary by shifting investments into stocks "with no conflict with C.I.A., like Quaker Oats." But he cor-

rected himself to say: "Well, not Quaker Oats, because C.I.A. estimates the Russian oat crop."

As Director of Central Intelligence, Mr. Casey receives information from agents and analysts, and from United States Air Force satellites and the National Security Agency's electronic intercepting equipment.

Three former officials at the security agency, who asked not to be identified because the functions of the agency were classified, said that, backed by legal authority and sophisticated technology, the agency monitors a large volume of international communications by multinational firms, foreign corporations and other governments.

One official said: "The C.I.A. Director will know almost before anyone else when an oil fire shuts down a major field in the Persian Gulf; whether the Chinese have to buy wheat or have a major oil find and need drilling equipment or when a foreign government is planning to expropriate a U.S. firm."

"Few people have access to all of this, but Casey's one of half a dozen people who have got it all."

Trust Inquiry Referred to Counsel

Mr. Sporkin said that Mr. Casey had asked whether he should create a blind trust. A deputy general counsel for the C.I.A., Ernest Mayfield, told him Feb. 3 that he did not have to.

Mr. Mayerfeld could not be reached, but Mr. Sporkin said: "There's no requirement that I know of to put his holdings in a blind trust." Referring to Mr. Casey, he went on: "You're dealing with a very honorable person. He wouldn't misuse information. He just wouldn't do that."

Mr. Sporkin said Mr. Mayerfeld had consulted a classified list of intelligence contractors before advising Mr. Casey that he did not have to sell stocks or create a trust, but should disqualify himself from dealing with specifics affecting his holdings.

Though not required to do so, Mr. Casey put his holdings in a blind trust when he headed the Securities and Exchange Commission, and when he served as Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and head of the Export-Import Bank in the Nixon and Ford administrations.

"I think he got burned on his last blind trust," Mr. Sporkin said. "It is a very onerous kind of thing to do."

Mr. Sporkin would not make public Mr. Casey's agreement with his invest-

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